Disinvestment of shares of PSUs.

4761. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 151 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1995 and state the details of the five public sector undertakings the shares of which have been disinvested recently alongwith the parameters and guidelines followed for such disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): In the latest tranche of disinvestment, shares of following 6 enterprises are offered. Government however decided to postpone disinvestment of VSNL shares. FIL, OCB, NRI alongwith the Indian Corporate bodies/institutions and public were invited to sumbit their bids. The total value of bids were fixed at Rs. 25,000 the minimum. Based on there recommendations of two reputed Indian Merchant Bankers, the Government decided the reserve price of the scrips and offers received at or above the reserve prices only were accepted.

Name of PSEs
1. Engineers India Ltd.
2. Gas Authority of India Ltd.
3. India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd.
4. Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.
5. Indian Oil Corporation
6. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

Control on prices of passenger cars

4762. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI J.S. RAJU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 683 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose any control over the prices of passenger cars;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Indian road conditions are preventing the new car projects to come up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) There is no proposal to impose any control on the prices of cars.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of agro-park complex at Ghaziabad

4763. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's first integrated agro-park complex at Ghaziabad has been set up in collaboration with Agroteam Consultants Limited of Israel having long standing experience in the engineering and development of agro projects;

(b) whether this agro-park is to be developed in association with U.P.S.I.D.C.,

(c) if so, the details of benefits to be derived from this agro-park with terms of collaboration;

(d) whether Government propose to explore possibilities to set up similar agro-parks in North-Eastern Region in fugure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) U.P. State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC) has informed that an agro-park is being set up at Ghaziabad in

collaboration with M/s Agroteam Consultatants Ltd., Israel. The proposed agro-park is being set up as an associated sector project by Western India Group of India in association with UPSIDC. The project will provide engineering consulting services including lay-out of individual units, group scheme irrigation products, equipment development etc. to entrepreneurs who may set up their units in the proposed agre-park.

(d) and (e) The new Industrial Policy (NIP)1991, provides for industrialisation of backward areas through extension of appropriate incentives and infrastructure facilities to entrepreneurs. Primarily the Central Government supplements and industrialisation efforts of the respective State Governments through the Growth Centre Scheme, tax holidays for units in backward areas and transport subsidy. A Growth Centre Scheme is under implementation for creation of infrastructure and dispersal of industries to backward areas including the north-eastern region. Nine Growth Centre have been allotted for this region.

Impact of foreign investment on economy

4764. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 147 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether approval to foreign direct investments are going to affect the economy of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The promotion of foreign direct investment (FDI) is an important corner-stone of the major programme of economic reforms which seeks to move India rapidly into the global economy, make Indian industry internationally competitive, ensure optimal utilisation of human resources and transform India into a major partner of the developed and developing nations. Foreign investment would bring attendant advantages of technology transfer, marketing expertise, modern managerial techniques and new possiblilities for exports. In the post-policy period i.e. August 1991-March 1995 more than 80% of the FDI approvals are in the priority sectors like power oil refineries, electronics, electrical equipments, chemicals, food processing, telecommunications, transportation, industrial machinery etc. India welcomes foreign investment because it is in the interest of the country's industrial development.

Losses incurred by HMT on lamp business

4765. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of loss suffered by the HMT limited on account of its lamp business during the financial year 1994-95;

(b) whether it is a fact that even after having sufficient manpower HMT limited is unable to concentrate on lamp business;

(c) if so, what are the measures HMT Limited is planning to take to utilise the manpower for productive results; and

(d) what is the total amount earned by the HMT Limited from the export of lamps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) HMT Limited incurred a net loss of Rs. 72.91 crore (Provisional) during 1994-95. It would not be in the business interest of HMT to disclose the profit/loss of any particular business group/unit.

(b) and (c) The present manpower of the Lamp Unit is much in excess of the actual requirements resulting in uneconomic operations. The capacity expansion plan of this unit could not be